

*[Translation]***Percentage of GDP**

479. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of G.D.P. being spent by the Government on agriculture, bio-technology, medicine, industrial research and atomic energy at present;

(b) the comparative data of this expenditure vis-a-vis other developing countries;

(c) whether the Government propose to increase this budget in the field of research;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) A statement is attached.

(b) As per the data available in the Handbook of Industrial Policy & Statistics 1997 published by the Ministry

of Industry the comparable data for R & D Research & Development expenditure as a percentage of gross national product for select countries is as follows:—

(Figures within bracket indicate the year to which the figures pertain) Argentina 0.3% (1988), Brazil 0.4% (1985), India 0.8% (1994) and Indonesia 0.2% (1988).

(c) to (e) The Central Government expenditure as per the expenditure budget is budgeted to increase by 5.9 per cent for agriculture research and education, 23.9 per cent in bio-technology, 11.6 per cent in health; 28.5 per cent in medicine (Indian & Homeo.), 9.2 per cent in scientific and industrial research and 11.4 per cent in atomic energy in 1997–98 (BE) over the revised estimates for 1996–97. Besides, the budget for 1997–98 has enhanced allocation for Technology Development Fund; instituted “Swarnajayanti” fellowships for outstanding scientists to attain and sustain world class levels in science and; taken some new initiatives to foster closer links between Indian industry and publicly funded research laboratories. These measures are expected to have a favourable impact on scientific research and development.

Statement*Total Central Government Expenditure as a Percentage of Estimated Gross Domestic Product*

	Ministry/Department	1996–97 (Revised Estimates)	1997–98 (Budget Estimates)
1	Agriculture	0.31	0.30
	(a) Agriculture & cooperation	0.25	0.25
	(b) Agriculture research & education	0.05	0.04
	(c) animal husbandry & dairying	0.02	0.01
2	Biotechnology	0.01	0.01
3	Health	0.10	0.10
4	Family welfare	0.12	0.13
5	Medicine (Indian & Homeopathy)	0.00	0.00
6	Scientific & Industrial Research	0.04	0.04
7	Atomic Energy	0.13	0.13
	Total (1 to 7)	0.72	0.71